

Dear Colleague:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Child and Adolescent Health Program, is pleased to announce that a Request for Applications (RFA) is available for the "Abstinence Education" grants. Funding has been made possible through a federal grant awarded to DHSS from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. Funding available for grants in State Fiscal Year 2005 will be \$818,187.

Although New Jersey is below the national average in teen birth rates, teen pregnancy continues to be a serious public health issue in our State. Abstinence education plays a vital role in health promotion and is a strategy designed to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancies, HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and other risk taking behaviors.

Interested agencies/organizations are invited to submit proposals to develop or expand peer education, mentoring programs, and/or other community based programs that teach young people the benefits of abstinence as well as refusal, communication and decision-making skills.

A technical assistance meeting for potential applicants is scheduled for:

Date:	January 20, 2004
Snow Date:	January 22, 2004
Location:	Middlesex County Fire Academy 1001 Fire Academy Drive Sayreville, New Jersey
Time:	10:00 am to 12:30 pm

This meeting will provide the opportunity for potential applicants to ask pertinent questions regarding this RFA. Attendance is not required but is highly recommended. Those planning to attend should RSVP to Ms. Patsy Cooper, Adolescent Health, at (609) 984-0792 no later than January 13, 2004 and indicate: name of person(s) attending (maximum of 2), agency affiliation, mailing and email addresses and telephone number. Directions to Middlesex County Fire Academy are available upon request.

Interested applicants may obtain the RFA by contacting the Abstinence Education Program at (609) 984-0792. Copies of the RFA will also be available at the technical assistance meeting. The DHSS Health Service Grant Application is available on the Department's web site. The address is:
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/mgmt/mgmt&adm.htm#financial>.
Click on "Grant Application Forms". All items in the grant application must be completed and submitted by the deadline.

A completed, original application including three (3) copies of each page, all supporting materials and attachments, plus six (6) single copies, must be received by the Abstinence Education Program no later than **Friday, February 20, 2004 at 4 p.m. EST**. No extensions will be granted and no late applications will be reviewed.

I invite all eligible applicants to give serious consideration to this RFA and encourage you to submit an application. If you require any additional information or further assistance, please contact Alice M. Burns, Program Officer at (609) 984-0791.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. McNally
Program Manager
Child and Adolescent Health